

# The Times-Dispatch

DAILY-WEEKLY-SUNDAY.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1910.

## BETTER WAGES AND BETTER TIMES.

The Norfolk and Western Railroad has announced that it will raise the pay of several thousand of its employees during the next few days. At the same time the Western Union Telegraph Company announces that the funds which have been accumulating in its plethoric treasury for a dividend "melon" will be voted to a general and permanent increase in the pay of its employees. A week ago the Pennsylvania Railroad and a number of companies associated with it announced similar raises, which, with those reported Wednesday, will reach the pay-envelope of perhaps 200,000 railroad men in the country.

Of course, there was a great deal of business sense combined with some charity in this unprecedented liberality on the part of these corporations. The railroads knew that their men were underpaid, and they knew that they would strike for higher wages as soon as they thought they could win their fight. The wise directors merely took time by the forelock and gave the men what they wanted without a fight. In doing so they probably saved as much by averting strikes as they lost by increasing the men's wages.

There is fundamental justice, however, back of the good policy shown by the railroad people. Wages during the past year and a half have not been as high as they were before the Roosevelt panic. After that presidential onslaught on the stability of the business world, the railroad companies all over the country were forced to cut wages. They have now caught their breath and replenished their treasuries, and can afford to give the men full pay for their services. This is the sliding-scale put into practice without the turmoil of the strike, and the sliding-scale is after all the sanest and justest of all labor agreements.

This raise made by so many companies at the same time is a somewhat related concession to meet the higher cost of living about which every working man is complaining. The price of all staple commodities has risen about forty-five per cent. since the happy days of 1897, when the man who was lucky enough to get work never doubted that he could make both ends meet and live like a prince. During the same period—a little more than twelve years—wages have not increased more than thirty per cent. in any of the trades, and in many have not increased more than ten per cent. If wages are to be kept on what the economists call a living basis, all industries must be prepared to do as the railroads have done or else they may expect trouble.

Is it not a pleasing spectacle, however, in these days of industrial strife, to see great corporations, without violence, almost without threats, put their employees on a sound and liberal wage basis? To our mind it is one of the happiest signs of better times and one of the best indications that the corporations are not as black as they are painted.

## POUTING AT BEVERIDGE.

Mr. Taft is said to have cancelled his engagement to speak at Indianapolis on his Western trip. Last Tuesday the Indiana State Convention refused to endorse the Payne Tariff Bill, being persuaded to that course by Senator Beveridge, who holds the Hoosiers in the hollow of his hand. It is said that as soon as Mr. Taft heard that Beveridge had doubled-crossed him he determined that he would not stop in Indianapolis; whereupon, there is said to have been great distress among the Adulterates. An effort will be made, however, by Mr. Fairbanks and other really distinguished men in Indianapolis to persuade the President to reconsider his reported determination not to speak to them as he passes by.

The arrangements for his reception were in charge of the Board of Trade, the Commercial Club, the Columbia Club, the Marion Club and other civic bodies, and we trust that Mr. Taft will stop over in Indianapolis for the sake of meeting his friends there. He need not speak to Beveridge—we do not see why he should ever speak to him, or anybody like him; but he owes something to the people of Indiana, whether they think the Payne Tariff Bill is a good tariff bill or a bad tariff bill. That has nothing to do with the President's proper course just now. Mr. Taft will remember that in the last presidential election he received 548,925 Republican votes in that State, but he will also remember that a change of 6,000 votes would have placed him in the vocative so far as Indiana is concerned. Besides, if we were in his place, we would not let Beveridge think that we thought of him at all, but we would go along about our business as usual and heard this Douglas in his hall. Anyhow, we would rather have Mr. Fairbanks in

the United States Senate than Mr. Beveridge. We never did like a man with a name like that.

**THE COMING OF "THE COLONEL."**  
 Walter Wellman has been finding out things over in Europe, where he is trying to connect with the Colonel. In one of his recent cable letters he sends the interesting and cheering news that the Colonel "feels in nowise responsible for Taft, and is not inclined to do anything that may either help or harm him. Moreover," says Mr. Wellman, "the intimate friendship once existing between them no longer exists."

"This is due to certain actions on the part of the President and also to the somewhat surprising change in the character of his methods since his nomination and election." "Judging by what he does not say rather than by what he does, Roosevelt's traveling companions understand that his estimate of Taft is not now so high as when he made his success."

Roosevelt feels that no obligations of friendship or any such considerations bind him in his relations with the incumbent in the presidency. Henry Watterson makes a great imitation over what Wellman says, and, licking his chops in anticipation of "that dinner" at Washington, calls on Mr. Pulitzer, of the New York World, "Joseph, put the kettle on. We'll all have tea." We have not seen the Wellman records in this case and doubt that they have been submitted to Captain Loose and the New York Times for verification; but somehow we fear that he has miscalculated both his latitude and longitude.

We have heard that there has been no direct communication between Mr. Taft and the Colonel since the latter went on his great hunting expedition; and we doubt very much that the Colonel has made any statement on the subject of his relations with the President. We are quite ready to believe that he would not suffer any obligations of friendship to influence his conduct in this or any other matter, and we imagine that Mr. Taft knows him as well as anybody else in the country. We also have an idea that Mr. Taft could be a very ugly sort of antagonist if the worst should come to the best between himself and the former President—a good-natured man is the meanest sort of a man in a really close hand-to-hand fight; for which all good Democrats should fervently pray in the event predicted by the Dr. Frederick A. Cook, of Journalism.

There are, of course, conditions which might make it imperative for the Colonel to enter the arena against "the best fitted man for President who has ever offered for the place," or words to that effect. He would not hesitate, for example, to save the country from a Japanese invasion, or suffer the Germans to land at Boston and burn up that town, or permit brave old Ben Tillman to take up any more sections in Oregon; but we do not believe that he has yet made up his mind not to be a candidate against Mr. Taft in 1912. O'Loughlin's special dispatch from Rome to Editor Moore, of the Pittsburgh Leader, we must say, has a suspicious look and has set us guessing again.

Roosevelt, of course, wants celebration national, if held at all. As you say, special desire is to give the people at large a chance to greet him if they so wish.

If that message was not written or dictated by the Colonel, John Callan O'Loughlin has learned how to imitate him. Only a week or so ago, the news came that the Colonel did not want any reception and would not stand for it a minute, and now we are told that if there is to be a celebration at all he would like to have it National in character; and he will get it, too, unless his luck fails. From all parts of this broad country, from the Philippines and Hawaii and Porto Rico and from the rising of the sun back to the East again, for there is no setting sun on our broad domains any more, the tribes will go up-cowboy and "cullid gentlemen," prize-fighter and pugilist, muck-raker and muck-maker, in sacred array to greet the returning warrior home. It will be a little touch of ancient Rome, the Conqueror dragging at his chariot wheels his hosts of hostages amidst the cheers of an intoxicated mob. "Of course," as O'Loughlin cables from Rome, "Roosevelt wants celebration National, if held at all." And may we be there to see.

## AN EMPTY VICTORY.

Socialists throughout the country are singing a long psalm of praise over their victory in the Milwaukee mayoral election on Tuesday. They see in it the crescent of their coming triumph and are rejoicing more loudly than in the whole history of their party. The malcontents in Baltimore who flout socialism as the excuse for their idleness and abuse others for earning what they themselves will not make, have taken heart at the victory in Milwaukee. H. C. Lewis, State Secretary of the Socialist party in Maryland, declares, "I am jubilant" and his colleagues announce the election as "the first big gun in the abolition of wage-slavery as was the firing on Fort Sumter for the abolition of chattel slavery."

This sounds fine, and if it were seriously intended, it might be a warning to all sane Americans; but as a matter of fact, the Maryland Socialists and the Socialists everywhere know that the victory in Milwaukee was the fruit of division. Of course, the Socialists are strong in Milwaukee, as they are strong throughout Wisconsin, but they rode into office on Tuesday last solely and only because the other voters of the town were divided while the Socialists, working as a third party, were united. Under similar conditions a prohibition party, a labor party, or any other party that kept its ranks closed might have won a similar victory.

The people of Milwaukee need not be especially disturbed over this vic-

tory of socialism otherwise than that it shows a deep-seated discontent with things as they are. The Socialists may waste money, and they probably will; they may begin some reforms which a saner administration will have to pay for; but they cannot upset the whole basis of municipal government and cannot break down the order against which they protest. As surely as the new administration comes into office, it will go out of office at the next election; and as surely as it begins with many promises, it will end with many failures. This is not because the Socialists are any worse men mentally or morally than the men they supplant in Milwaukee, but merely because the government they want to establish will not work.

If socialism, as preached in the Middle West, be dissected to the bone, what is it? The Socialists say they want better wages for their work, want more public service, want better chances in life, want an equal distribution of wealth, want the aged cared for and the weak protected. They say that government should be for the benefit of all the people and should seek to give equal happiness to all the people; but when they come to tell us how and the wherefore, they can give no definite, practical answer. The best of them all, Brand, was made premier of France, and he has tumbled down to a conservative working statesman, who cuts his coat according to his cloth. Everybody who tries to do as he did will finish by doing as he is doing, and the mayor of Milwaukee who promises so much, will learn to trim his sails to meet the winds of the time.

## PRAYING FOR PITTSBURGH.

Bishop Cortland Whitehead, of the Pittsburgh diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church, has appointed next Sunday as a day to be observed by Episcopalians throughout Allegheny county "with special prayers and sermons on civic righteousness, corporate repentance and confession, intemperance and political chicanery, graft and fraud—on any topic, indeed, which bears on the present deplorable situation in Pittsburgh." He has prepared a series of special prayers for the occasion, in one of which occurs this petition: "Save this whole community from political corruption, greed, intemperance, lawlessness, the desecration of the Lord's Day, the violation of the sanctity of marriage, and every false way."

Pittsburgh has been one of the strongholds of Republicanism in Pennsylvania and the politics of that State has long been noted for its corruption. The praying comes rather late, but better late than never. The good people of Pennsylvania have known for years how utterly corrupt has been the management of their political affairs, and yet, election after election, they have kept the rascals in office, and in Pittsburgh it was not until after the grand jury began its effective work that there ever appeared any serious thought on the part of the religious people of that community to pray for deliverance from the corrupt crew they have set over themselves. It is hoped that the grand jury will continue its work. The half of the rascals have not yet been caught. Praying on Sunday, it ought to be remembered, will not count at elections on Tuesday.

## WHY ANY JAIL AT ALL?

Sheriff Kemp, of the Henrico jail, thinks that Fay and Harris, the post-office robbers, will not escape from his cage and he is willing to stake his reputation on it. The Federal authorities agree with him and intend to send the prisoners to the county prison as soon as they are extradited from New York. This is all very well, and as the Government has the right to put its prisoners where it pleases, the postal inspectors can certainly lodge Fay and Harris on lower Main Street; but is it not a discredit to Richmond that our own city jail is not a safe place for professional criminals? If our jail cannot hold an expert like Fay, why should it hold other experts, and if we do not intend to have a jail strong enough to keep the worst criminals, why have any jail at all? Richmond never made a worse bargain in its history than that by which it paid hard cash for the city jail, and Richmond cannot too soon confess its blunder and build a new jail that will not be the laughing-stock of professional criminals.

## POETRY AS IS POETRY.

All the poetic talent in the South does not belong to grand old North Carolina. In Richmond there are sweet singers also, who speak in strophes and lambics, dancing with flying feet through all the realms of fancy.

We have just received a charming collection entitled "Richmond's Lullaby to Manchester," in three verses. We cannot afford to do more just now, because of the enormous pressure on our advertising columns and the growing demand upon the Best Sporting Page in the South, than to print the first verse of this charming tribute, as follows:

"Farewell sweet Manchester by the James,  
 Whose footstep echo down the corridors of fame  
 Thou sleepest now, but to memory fond  
 In the arms of your loving sister, fair Richmond."

There is more of it where this came from, but this is enough to show that when our old Pegasus is hitched up he can do a turn or two that makes the poets of North Carolina appear precisely what they are, mere pinch-pot and persiflage.

## BUILT UP A BIG CITY.

The Houston Post celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary last Tuesday. It is one of the most prosperous and influential newspapers in the South and it has contributed immensely to the success of the community in which

it is published and for which it speaks with authority. It was started at a time when Houston did not count for much more than a trading post, but, largely through its efforts, that town has become a great city, its population having increased five times in the last twenty-five years. We make our compliments to the Houston Post and trust that it will increase in its fatness as the years go by.

## BANKS IN POLITICS.

One bank president in Pittsburgh has confessed to giving a bribe and a second is under indictment for the same offense. The men receiving the bribes were Pittsburgh Councilmen who were to exert their influence with the Council in securing the deposit of the city's funds in the banks over which the confessed and the alleged bribe-giver presided.

This is about the sorriest chapter in the most disgraceful narrative of American municipal history that has been written since Tweed was put in stripes. It is disgraceful not only as a great and glaring instance of wholesale bribery, but disgraceful as the appearance in bribery proceedings of men who should never stoop so low. It is bad enough for any town to have Councilmen who will accept a bribe, but it is still worse for a town to have a bank which goes into the business of bribing.

A bank holds a peculiar position in every town, a position held by no other business house. Of course, the bank is in business for money. Its stockholders do not invest their funds for the fun of the thing. They expect a return from every dollar they put into bank stock, and they want as large a return as they can get. At the same time, a bank is a public institution, with special obligations and special duties. It lives on public confidence, and its usefulness depends upon the degree of confidence it enjoys, since the average man puts money in a bank because he believes the bank is sound and honestly managed.

No bank can merit the confidence thus reposed in it, or hope for success, that does not regard its responsibility and remember its special obligations, and no bank can hope to do its honest duty and dabble in politics. Just as soon as the bank begins to pass beyond its legitimate field and seeks to make an illegitimate profit by bribery that bank unsettles its own foundation and does injury to the banking business throughout the country. The offending bank will be made a type in the popular mind, and all confidence will be shaken at the spectacle enacted in Pittsburgh.

Punitive justice is seldom justice, but we could wish for the honor of all bankers and for the standing of reputable bank men in all parts of the State that the offending presidents in Pittsburgh be dealt with in severity. The standing of a great business demands it.

## WHAT THE PAPERS THINK.

Noting the death of three or four old soldiers of the National Soldiers' Home at Togus, who die every pension day after visiting the liquor joints in the Prohibition State of Maine, the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, which has a rather plain way of saying things, remarks:

If the spineless demagogues in Congress had hearkened to the counsel and warnings of the most experienced officers of the army, men who, like General Frederick Grant, are ardent leaders in the temperance movement, instead of abolishing the canteens at the military reservations and veteran homes at the best of ignorant fascinations, these poor old fellows would not be driven to be doped with liquid poison and robbed of purse and life itself by the harpies who now infest the neighborhood of every fort and encampment. In the canteens nothing stronger than beer was sold and there was strict supervision to prevent excess; the social instincts of the men were given rational indulgence and innocent games relieved the tedium of their idle hours. Now all that is changed. The intemperate reformers have much to answer for.

The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot calls attention to the significant fact that since the report of the legislative committee was made advising the members of the Anti-Saloon League to go into the election of members of the General Assembly regardless of personal or political affiliations, "the mouthpieces of the League have emphasized it in terms which prove that not an impulse of resentment but a deliberate purpose was meant to be conveyed."

## The Norfolk Landmark explains:

"A bucket-shop is an office where bets are made on the movements of the stocks on the Stock Exchange, without actual purchases or sales of these stocks. Bucket-shop people manage, by various devices, to acquaint themselves of Stock Exchange fluctuations as soon as these figures are known on the Stock Exchange itself."

We thank our contemporary for the information. It ought to know about such things, even if it be a little rusty on the fashions.

At the meeting of the Common Council of Newport News Tuesday night the report of the retraction committee was wrangled over for the space of two hours or so, much to the disgust of the Daily Press, which declares that—

"The fault lies in the system which places the affairs of the city in the hands of twenty-four men, in two bodies, chosen without regard to their special fitness for handling municipal business, and giving only incidental attention to the municipality. We want this system changed just as soon as possible; and in the meantime we should exercise judgment in selecting Councilmen in order to secure the

best possible government under the circumstances."

That is all true. The nominations for members of the Richmond Council close to-day.

There is a great deal of talk throughout the State about the recommendation of the legislative committee of the Anti-Saloon League that the members of the league vote for members of the next General Assembly regardless of personal or political affiliations. The South Hill Enterprise says:

"This means that they are now Prohibitionists and propose to establish a new party, or rather, launch afresh the Prohibition party. We do not believe that they will be able to carry the rank and file of the Anti-Saloon League with them, for it is a well known fact that these people will be slow to cut loose from the party that gave them clean government when clean government was needed. And they will also be slow in following a set of men who have demonstrated that they are short on sincerity in the move."

It begins to look as if the majority of Democrats will stick to the party, and that the Anti-Saloon people will have to come in or stay out.

Exclaims the Petersburg Index-Appalachee: "Greater Richmond, lesser Manchester! It's the same old story of the lady and the tiger, or the canary and the cat." But never mind, dear contemporary; after a few years Richmond will absorb Petersburg also, and then you will be happy, indeed, to be a citizen of no mean city.

When it attends the reception of Vanuelli in Montreal next month, the Norfolk Landmark will please bear in mind that it must not wear a decollete gown.

Wouldn't the Colonel have had a time of it making the Moderator of the General Assembly of Scotland, for example, receive him according to the Colonel's "stipulations?"

The John Callan O'Loughlin, who has been figuring as extensively as he could in the embargo at Rome, is spoken of as Assistant Secretary of State in 1909; but he wasn't secretary to hurt, as the saying goes, having held a subordinate place for probably three months or so towards the tail end of the seventh year of the reign of Theodore the Great.

Mr. A. S. Salley, Jr., the secretary of the South Carolina Historical Commission, protests in a letter to the Columbia State against the use of the term "Civil War" on the ground that "a civil war is a conflict between factions of one country," and that to call the conflict between the United States and the Confederate States a civil war is equivalent to admitting that the Confederate States never were an independent government, and denying that they had the right to be an independent government. A better name for the struggle would be "The War against the South" or "The War for Southern Independence." There is a good deal in a name after all.

Writing to Monsignor Kennedy, of the American College at Rome, from Cairo, the Colonel said: "I fully recognize his (the Pope's) entire right to receive or not receive whomsoever he chooses, for any reason that seems good to him, and if he does not receive me, I shall not for a moment question the propriety of his action." Just so; and as soon as the Colonel found that he would not be received by the Pope, for some reason, he, or somebody who had access to his correspondence, went right off and put the messages that had passed between them on the wires, or such part of the messages as would appear to give the Colonel a little the best of it.

It is true, as the Charlotte Chronicle says, that the Scotch are the best class of immigrants in the world. It adds that "as soon as North Carolina shall have obtained a sufficient number of them she will turn over the surplus to Virginia." Thanks; but why should the Scotch people go to North Carolina when they can come to Virginia, if they are as intelligent as they think themselves and as they are represented to be?

Wonders will never cease. The Charlotte Chronicle actually admits that Daniel Boone, whose birthday anniversary is to be celebrated at Salisbury next month, was really not born in North Carolina, but in Pennsylvania. If we are not mistaken, Boone was really born in Virginia, or South Carolina.

A question for the school children: What great man, besides Robert B. Glenn, was born in North Carolina?

A few stray newspapers are talking of nominating Nicholas Longworth for Governor of his native State. This may be very well, but it looks a bit suspicious that the boom was not announced until the return of the Colonel went to Africa?

Despite the fact that 150 Chinamen have engaged seats for the Jefferson Johnsons, the promoters of that encounter promise that there shall be nothing Oriental about the performance.

All things considered, the crop of jokes about Easter hats was remarkably small, which indicates the upward movement of all true joke-smiths.

"The time when a girl wants to look her best is all the time," says the Dallas News. Yet the only place in the world where her wants are fully satisfied is in Richmond.

The St. Louis Star is satisfied that Senator Heyburn always gets results. This is very true, but the results he gets are in the end about what happens after giving a certain animal plenty of rope.

The Interstate Commerce Commission is said to be preparing a decision which will reduce Pullman rates throughout the country, but nothing in the decision is intended to reduce the dignity of the Pullman porter. This will save the honor of the company.

Yesterday was very much like a winter's day in Charleston when all the Northern visitors are out sunning themselves on the Battery.

## Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

**Annual Production of Wheat and Corn.**  
 Please tell me the annual production of wheat and corn in this country during the last crop year.

In 1908, the last year for which the government has issued figures, the production of corn was 2,685,551,000 bushels, and of wheat, 661,902,000 bushels.

**John Hay, M. C.**  
 Please give me a sketch of the Hon. John Hay, representative from this State in Congress.

The Congressional Directory gives the following sketch of Mr. Hay: "James Hay, Democrat, of Madison, Va., January 9, 1855, was educated at private schools in Maryland and in Virginia, at the University of Pennsylvania, Washington, and Lee University, Virginia, from which latter institution he graduated in law in June 1879, when he moved to Madison, Va., and devoted himself exclusively to his profession, and was attorney for the Commonwealth in 1883, and re-elected to that office in 1885. In 1885, he was elected to the House of Delegates in Virginia in 1885, and re-elected in 1887 and 1889; was elected to the Virginia State Senate, Democratic, in 1891, and was a member of the Democratic National Convention of 1888; was elected to the Fifty-fifth, Fifty-sixth, Fifty-seventh, Fifty-eighth and Fifty-ninth Congresses, and re-elected to the Sixtieth Congress, receiving 5,573 votes to 2,312 for E. E. Beecher, Republican, was elected chairman of the Democratic caucus of the Fifty-sixth, Fifty-seventh and Fifty-eighth Congresses, and re-elected to the Sixty-first Congress."

**Desertion of Wife and Children.**  
 When a man forms a State law regarding desertion of the wife or children in Virginia? I mean the law in force before the last Assembly took action.

INQUIRER.  
 This law reads: "Any person who

shall, without just cause, desert or willfully neglect to provide for the support of his wife or minor children in destitute or necessitous circumstances, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by imprisonment in jail not exceeding one year; provided that before the trial (with the consent of the defendant) or after conviction, instead of imposing the punishment hereinafter provided, the court may, in its discretion, have the power to enter an order, which shall be subject to change by the court from time to time, as the circumstances may require, to compel the defendant to pay a certain sum weekly or monthly for the space of one year to the wife or to the custodian of the minor, and to release the defendant from custody on probation for the space of one year, upon his entering into a recognizance, with or without sureties, such sum as the court shall direct. The condition of the recognizance shall be such that if the defendant shall make his personal appearance in court whenever ordered to do so within the term of the order, and further comply with the terms of the order of any subsequent modification thereof, the recognizance shall stand in full force and effect. If the court be satisfied by information and due proof under oath at any time during the year that the defendant has failed to comply with the terms of the order, it may forthwith proceed to the trial of the defendant under the original indictment, or sentence him under the original conviction, as the case may be. In the case of forfeiture of a recognizance, and enforcement thereof by execution, the costs of the proceedings, and the costs of the court be paid in whole or in part to the wife or to the custodian of the minor. The Corporation of Henric, Courts of the cities and the Circuit Courts of the counties respectively shall have exclusive original jurisdiction of all prosecutions and proceedings under this act."

## DE CRESPIGNY'S ACTS OF BRAVERY

**BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENAY.**  
 ALEXANDRE DE CRESPIGNY, of the Life Guards, who arrived on Saturday last to join Captain Miller's polo team for the season which is to be played at Lakewood and Meadowbrook, enjoys the distinction of having been on no less than two occasions in the front ranks of the commanding officers for the Victoria Cross, for deeds of conspicuous gallantry, being obliged, however, to content himself with the Victoria Cross Service Order, and with the knowledge that a very widespread feeling prevails in the army, and among the public, that he should have received the Victoria Cross asked for him on the last occasion by Lord Roberts during the South African War.

The particular exploit which has made the basis of the veteran field marshal's recommendation of Captain Claude Champion de Crespigny, was his daring rescue of a wounded comrade, two troopers who had been sent forward to reconnoitre, and whose horses were killed, and they themselves placed before the combat. He rode and brought one of the men in, his own horse being wounded, and then, falling on the back of another horse, returned to the front, and was, in the process, also wounded, in the leg, whom he also brought in, despite two wounds which he himself received while so doing. He is very tall, with a particularly muscular build, and reserved in his speech and reticent in his manner; and is as enthusiastic a sportsman as his father, Sir Claude Champion de Crespigny, who is a baronetcy he is the next heir. Despite his stature, he is one of the best gentleman riders in the British army, but a few years ago was later, his father in a steeplechase coming a terrific cropper, which smashed his arm, and enabled his sexagenarian, but still tremendously vigorous parent, to win the race.

Although Sir Claude went through the bankruptcy court some ten or fifteen years ago, his son, Captain de Crespigny, who is unmarried, will be very rich indeed, owing to the falling in of an immense number of leases in the London district. Lord de Crespigny is of relatively modern origin, dating only from the reign of George IV. The family, however, is one of the oldest of Normandy, and has been settled in England since the seventeenth century, when it emigrated to England in connection with the revolution of 1688. The family name is de Crespigny.

Both Captain de Crespigny and his father, Claude, are much liked by the royal family. In fact, King Edward may have owed his life to Sir Claude. It happened off Portland, where Edward VII. then heir apparent, was visiting the channel squadron, and was watching the working of a new gun on board the man-of-war Sultan. He had just turned to ask some question of the commander, Captain Vanittart, when suddenly a whirlwind started, and the handle, flying around with frightful velocity, would have struck the prince's head, had it not been for Sir Claude, who, in a quick as a flash, dragged his future sovereign back with little ceremony, and so much vigor that he almost brought him down sprawling on the deck. As it was, the handle missed the prince's head by barely an inch.

Sir Claude is one of the most picturesque characters in English life. He has been in turn a sailor, a fellow-midshipman of Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, an officer of the English Rifle Brigade, a cavalryman in the German army during the Franco-German War, a war correspondent, a champion of the cause of the Armenian, and for many years champion amateur boxer of England. He holds the Royal Humane Society medal for saving life from drowning, was bitterly disappointed when Blondin refused to carry him on his back across the Falls of Niagara on a tight rope, and has secured as an amateur pleader in a Spanish bull fight. It was while in the command of the Suffolk Hussars, one of the cavalry regiments of the army, that Sir Claude was taken to task by the old Duke of Cambridge, then commander-in-chief, for a mistake during the course of military manoeuvres. The duke, whose language was always picturesque, apostrophized Sir Claude as "a damned fool," and then afterwards, with his

characteristic generosity and kindheartedness, withdrew the words, "Oh," replied Sir Claude, "do not mind, sir, you calling me a damned fool, you don't like being called a damned fool before all those other damned fools!"

It is said that Sir Claude is extremely devoted to his wife, who is a very attractive and imposing figure. The duke was extremely tickled, and always fond of telling the story, with much gusto.

If Sir Claude had had his way, Captain de Crespigny would already now have had a handle to his name, for when the captain attained his majority, his father, Sir Claude, claimed for the crown, knighthood for the young fellow. This was formerly a prerogative of the eldest sons of baronets, which had, however, since fallen into abeyance during the greater part of the nineteenth century. Sir Claude's application, which excited a considerable amount of discussion, was rejected, on the ground that it was only baronetcies bestowed prior to the nineteenth century which had any legal right to be considered for the honor, on which it was allowed by the crown was in the case of the demand made by Sir James Laurence Cotton, of Rockwood, who was a baronet, not long after his son, Ludlow, an officer of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, attained his majority, secured for him knighthood and transformed him into Sir Ludlow Cotton.

**Annals of the Zar.**  
 The Duc de Morny's arrival in New York for the day of some duration in the United States has caused some mind the strange mystery which has always existed with regard to the fate of his grandfather, Prince Serge Trubetzkoy. The latter, Prince Catherine Moussin-Pushkin, but the union was not a very happy one, and the prince, who is a very pretty woman, was the object of the undiluted admiration on the part of Nicholas I. that when her little girl, Sophia, afterwards Empress of Russia, was born, gossip at St. Petersburg described the paternity of this child to the Zar, a report to which color was lent by the fact that Sophia's marriage to the late Duc de Montpensier received a dowry of 1,000,000 roubles from Emperor Alexander II. who was possibly her grandfather.

Serge Trubetzkoy, at any rate, was convinced of the truth of the story, and he determined to bide his time, and to get her with his favor, and he calculated to humiliate him, afterwards Emperor Nicholas became infatuated by the beauty of Mme. Lavinia Adamovskaya, who had only been married about a couple of years, and who, recently arrived in St. Petersburg at the time, had at once, by reason of her wealth and her family, attracted the attention of the Emperor. But his husband and her own cleverness and fascination, taken up a very conspicuous place in the great world of the Russian metropolis. The Emperor caused it to be intimated to the lovely Lavinia that she had attracted his attention, and that he proposed to "hone" her with his favor. To his amazement and disgust, Lavinia declined in a very categorical and haughty manner the advances of her sovereign. Accepting his defeat, he said nothing, attributing the lady's attitude to virtue, which he regarded as so rare as to be deserving of respect, and to affection for her husband. But his anger knew no bounds when some weeks later Serge Trubetzkoy, who had learned of the matter, succeeded in inducing Lavinia to elope with him. This was more than the Zar could bear. He had the fugitive couple arrested just at the moment when they were about to cross the frontier into Austria, and brought back by the police to St. Petersburg, where, by his orders, the lady was restored to her husband, while Serge Trubetzkoy, deprived of his military rank and princely title, disappeared in the direction of Siberia, and was never heard of again by any of the members of his family. Lavinia was divorced some time afterwards by her husband, abroad, and married in France. Comte de Castel.

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